

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of configuring nodes for service requests, the method comprising:
 - 5 transmitting an operational rule from a first service node that receives a request for service to a second service node that is configured to apply the operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first service node for service.
- 10 2. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
propagating the operational rule from the second service node to a third service node that is registered with the second service node as capable of providing service thereto.
- 15 3. A method according to Claim 1 wherein transmitting an operational rule is preceded by:
registering the second node with the first service node to define the second service node as available to the first service node to receive requests for service.
- 20 4. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the operational rule comprises a first operational rule, the method further comprising:
modifying the first operational rule to provide a second operational rule; and
transmitting the second operational rule to the second service node responsive to modifying the first operational rule.
- 25 5. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a first request for service at the first service node;
determining that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first
30 request; and
transmitting the propagated first request to the second service node.
6. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a first request for service at the first service node;

determining that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first
request; and

transmitting the propagated first request to a third service node rather than the
5 second service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third service node.

7. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a first request for service at the first service node, the first request
for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how
10 the first request is to be serviced;
determining that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first
request; and
transmitting the propagated first request and the token to the second service
15 node.

8. A method according to Claim 7 wherein the token comprises at least
one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

9. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the operational rule comprises
a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction
terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

10. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the operational rule comprises
25 an requestor identifier that identifies a the first service node as transmitting the
request for service the second service node.

11. A method of configuring secondary service nodes to handle service
requests from a primary service node in a service node network, the method
30 comprising:
receiving a request for registration at a primary service node from a secondary
service node including that the secondary service node is capable of providing a
service to the primary service node;

registering that the secondary service node is capable of providing the service with primary service node;

transmitting a response from the primary service node to the secondary service node including an operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the
5 primary service node;

maintaining the operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with the primary service node;

receiving a request for service from the primary service node at the secondary service node; and

10 providing service to the primary service node responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the primary service node.

12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the operational rule comprises a first operational rule, the
15 method further comprising:

receiving a request for registration at a second primary service node from the secondary service node including that the secondary service node is capable of
providing service to the second primary service node;

20 registering that the secondary service node is capable of providing the service with second primary service node;

transmitting a response from the second primary service node to the secondary service node including a second operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary service node;

25 maintaining the second operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with the second primary service node;

receiving a request for service from the second primary service node at the secondary service node; and

30 providing service to the second primary service node using the second operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary service node.

13. A system for configuring nodes for service requests, comprising:

means for transmitting an operational rule from a first service node that receives a request for service to a second service node that is configured to apply the

operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first service node for service.

14. A system according to Claim 13 further comprising:
5 means for propagating the operational rule from the second service node to a third service node that is registered with the second service node as capable of providing service thereto.

15. A system according to Claim 13 further comprising:
10 means for registering the second node with the first service node to define the second service node as available to the first service node to receive requests for service.

16. A system according to Claim 13 wherein the operational rule
15 comprises a first operational rule, the system further comprising:
means for modifying the first operational rule to provide a second operational rule; and
means for transmitting the second operational rule to the second service node responsive to modifying the first operational rule.

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17. A system according to Claim 13 further comprising:
means for receiving a first request for service at the first service node;
means for determining that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
25 means for applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and
means for transmitting the propagated first request to the second service node.

18. A system according to Claim 13 further comprising:
30 means for receiving a first request for service at the first service node;
means for determining that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
means for applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

means for transmitting the propagated first request to a third service node rather than the second service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third service node.

5 19. A system according to Claim 13 further comprising:

 means for receiving a first request for service at the first service node, the first request for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how the first request is to be serviced;

 means for determining that the first request is associated with the operational
10 rule;

 means for applying the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

 means for transmitting the propagated first request and the token to the second service node.

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 20. A system according to Claim 19 wherein the token comprises at least one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

 21. A system according to Claim 13 wherein the operational rule
20 comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

 22. A system according to Claim 13 wherein the operational rule
 comprises a requestor identifier that identifies a the first service node as transmitting
25 the request for service the second service node.

 23. A system for configuring secondary service nodes to handle service requests from a primary service node in a service node network, comprising:

 means for receiving a request for registration at a primary service node from a
30 secondary service node including that the secondary service node is capable of providing a service to the primary service node;

 means for registering that the secondary service node is capable of providing the service with primary service node;

means for transmitting a response from the primary service node to the secondary service node including an operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the primary service node;

5 means for maintaining the operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with the primary service node;

means for receiving a request for service from the primary service node at the secondary service node; and

means for providing service to the primary service node responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the primary service node.

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24. A system according to Claim 23 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the operational rule comprises a first operational rule, the system further comprising:

15 means for receiving a request for registration at a second primary service node from the secondary service node including that the secondary service node is capable of providing service to the second primary service node;

means for registering that the secondary service node is capable of providing the service with second primary service node;

20 means for transmitting a response from the second primary service node to the secondary service node including a second operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary service node;

means for maintaining the second operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with the second primary service node;

25 means for receiving a request for service from the second primary service node at the secondary service node; and

means for providing service to the second primary service node using the second operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary service node.

30 25. A computer program product for configuring nodes for service requests comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program product comprising:

computer readable program code configured to transmit an operational rule from a first service node that receives a request for service to a second service node that is configured to apply the operational rule to the request for service in response to the request from the first service node for service.

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26. A computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to propagate the operational rule from the second service node to a third service node that is registered with the second service node as capable of providing service thereto.

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27. A computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising: computer readable program code configured to register the second node with the first service node to define the second service node as available to the first service node to receive requests for service.

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28. A computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the operational rule comprises a first operational rule, the computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify the first operational rule to provide a second operational rule; and

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computer readable program code configured to transmit the second operational rule to the second service node responsive to modifying the first operational rule.

29. A computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

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computer readable program code configured to receiving a first request for service at the first service node;

computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the operational rule;

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computer readable program code configured to apply the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and

computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request to the second service node.

30. A computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

- 5 computer readable program code configured to receive a first request for service at the first service node;
- computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
- computer readable program code configured to apply the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and
- 10 computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request to a third service node rather than the second service node responsive to a parameter associated with the third service node.

31. A computer program product according to Claim 25 further comprising:

- 15 computer readable program code configured to receive a first request for service at the first service node, the first request for service including a token associated with the first request that further defines how the first request is to be serviced;
- 20 computer readable program code configured to determine that the first request is associated with the operational rule;
- computer readable program code configured to apply the operational rule to the first request to provide a propagated first request; and
- 25 computer readable program code configured to transmit the propagated first request and the token to the second service node.

32. A computer program product according to Claim 31 wherein the token comprises at least one of a price, geographic location, and quality of service.

30 33. A computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the operational rule comprises a rule associated with at least one of security, error recovery, and business transaction terms/conditions associated with the request for service.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 25 wherein the operational rule comprises a requestor identifier that identifies a the first service node as transmitting the request for service the second service node.

5 35. A computer program product of configuring secondary service nodes to handle service requests from a primary service node in a service node network, comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program product comprising:

10 computer readable program code configured to receive a request for registration at a primary service node from a secondary service node including that the secondary service node is capable of providing a service to the primary service node;

computer readable program code configured to register that the
15 secondary service node is capable of providing the service with primary service node;

computer readable program code configured to transmit a response
from the primary service node to the secondary service node including an
operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the primary
20 service node;

computer readable program code configured to maintain the
operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with
the primary service node;

25 computer readable program code configured to receive a request for service from the primary service node at the secondary service node; and

computer readable program code configured to provide service to the
primary service node responsive to determining that the request for service is
associated with the primary service node.

30 36. A computer program product according to Claim 35 wherein the primary node comprises a first primary node and the operational rule comprises a first operational rule, the computer program product further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for
registration at a second primary service node from the secondary service node

including that the secondary service node is capable of providing service to the second primary service node;

computer readable program code configured to register that the secondary service node is capable of providing the service with second primary service node;

5 computer readable program code configured to transmitting a response from the second primary service node to the secondary service node including a second operational rule that defines how the service is to be provided to the second primary service node;

10 computer readable program code configured to maintain the second operational rule accessible to the secondary service node and associated with the second primary service node;

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for service from the second primary service node at the secondary service node; and

15 computer readable program code configured to provide service to the second primary service node using the second operational rule responsive to determining that the request for service is associated with the second primary service node.

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